

Application No. 10/680,528

Art Unit: 3766

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REMARKS

Applicants hereby declare that the following the subject matter of two applications by John E. Burnes et al. on 29 April 2003; namely, application serial number 10/426,613 (publication no. 20040220631) and application serial number 10/426,979 (publication no. 20040220640) shall not preclude patentability under 35 U.S.C. §103 because the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

While Applicants have not had a thorough opportunity to study the grounds or merits of the supposed application of the two Burnes et al. applications, Applicants submit this paper in an attempt to advance prosecution of the instant application.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this Response.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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